

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

DATED:- 16.04.2025

HEADLINES:-

- Union External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar says the relevance of the northeast region will grow with time.
- Supreme Court lays down stringent guidelines for the prevention and expedited trial of child trafficking related offences across the country.
- Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Smt. Savitri Thakur, conducts a comprehensive review with senior officials of Meghalaya's Social Welfare Department.
- Tura Lok Sabha member, Saleng A Sangma calls for transparency and accountability in the implementation of centrally-sponsored schemes in Meghalaya.
- Meghalaya Rajya Sabha Member, Dr. W.R. Kharlukhi hinted the end of the chapter for railway expansion in Khasi-Jaintia Hills.
- India Meteorological Department says above normal seasonal rainfall is very likely to occur over most parts of the country except some areas over North-East.

RELEVANCE:

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar has said the northeast region is at the heart of many key Indian policies like Neighbourhood First, Act East or the BIMSTEC and asserted that the region's relevance will grow with time. He was addressing a meeting of ambassadors for the upcoming North East Investors Summit 2025, organised by the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER) yesterday. Dr Jaishankar urged foreign envoys to explore the region and promote its attributes to their governments and industries. Dr Jaishankar said northeast shares borders with five neighbouring countries, serving as a bridge between the Indian subcontinent and ASEAN. He noted that many recent initiatives involving India's immediate neighbours emanate from this region and highlighted the importance of projects like the Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan project.

COURT:

The Supreme Court yesterday laid down stringent guidelines for the prevention and expedited trial of child trafficking related offences across the country. The Bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan directed High Courts across the country to issue directions to lower courts to complete trials in child trafficking cases in six months. The top court also mandated that such cases be heard on a day-to-day basis to prevent delays in justice. The Court issued the directions while hearing anticipatory bail pleas filed by the accused in a child trafficking case from Uttar Pradesh.

SCHEME:

In line with strengthening the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Programmes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, a series of high-level meetings were held in Shillong yesterday. The Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Smt. Savitri Thakur, conducted a comprehensive review

with senior officials of the Government of Meghalaya's Social Welfare Department. The discussions focused on assessing progress in flagship schemes such as Poshan Abhiyan, Mission Shakti, and Mission Vatsalya. During the meeting, the Minister emphasised the need for strengthening service delivery mechanisms at the grassroots level, especially in the functioning of Anganwadi Centres. The review highlighted critical areas including the need for regular and high-quality supplementary nutrition under the Integrated Child Development Services and improving infrastructure at Anganwadi Centres.

MIDDLEMEN:

Tura Lok Sabha member, Saleng A Sangma has called for the elimination of middlemen and corruption to improve transparency and accountability in the implementation of centrally-sponsored schemes in the state. He acknowledged the lack of awareness programmes provided by the DC's office and suggested more workshops in every district and block to educate people on how to avail the central benefits. Sangma also demanded strict action against officials and middlemen found to engage in illegal activities. He urged citizens to register grievances and urged authorities to take action against erring officials or individuals involved in bribery. Sangma emphasized that these welfare programmes are meant for the public's benefit and that the DC, SP, BDO, and other officials should take responsibility for any issues that arise.

RAILWAY:

The leader of National People's Party and Rajya Sabha Member, Dr. W.R. Kharlukhi has hinted that with the Meghalaya Government returning funds sanctioned by the Centre for railway land acquisition, it marks the end of the chapter for railway expansion in Khasi-Jaintia Hills. Amid this setback, Dr. Kharlukhi criticised the VPP's decision to boycott the All-Party Committee formed to deliberate on the railway project. Further intensifying the rhetoric, Dr. Kharlukhi slammed VPP's demand for an inquiry into its defeat in Jaintia Hills, branding it as political deflection.

WEATHER:

The India Meteorological Department has said that the Southwest Monsoon seasonal rainfall from June to September this year is likely to be above normal. Briefing media in New Delhi today, Director General of IMD, Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the above normal seasonal rainfall is very likely over most parts of the country except some areas over North-East, North-West and South Peninsular India where below normal rainfall is expected.
